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Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 INR-07 SS-15 /037 W
----------027895 130244Z /73-65
R 122220Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5038
AMEMBASSY LIMA
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
SECDEF WASHDC
CSAF WASHDC/LGF
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4620

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, PINR, MASS, EC, PE
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON SU-22 CAPABILITIES

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST OBTAINED COPIES OF PAGES FROM 1976-77 EDITION OF JANE'S ALL THE WORLD'S AIRCRAFT WHICH DEAL WITH THE SU-7, SU-17 AND SU-20. ACCORDING TO JANE'S (PAGES 434 AND 435), THE SU-20, OR SU-22, IS AN EXPORT VERSION OF THE SU-17 FITTED WITH THE AL-7F-1 ENGINE FROM THE SU-7. IF THAT IS THE CASE, WE WOULD PRESUME THAT THE SU-22 WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO SHARE THE OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SU-7, WITH ITS MAXIMUM SPEED OF MACH 1.6 (VS. MACH 2.2 FOR THE SU-17) AND ITS LIMITED BOMB AND ROCKET CAPABILITY (SOME 2,500 KILOS VS. 5,000 KILOS FOR THE SU-17).

2. IF ABOVE ANALYSIS IS CORRECT, IT COULD SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE IMPACT OF PERU'S PURCHASE OF SU-22S ON AIR DEFENSE COUNTER-MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE ADOPTED BY PERU'S NEIGHBORS. FOR INSTANCE, ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE (FAE) HAS RESISTED PURCHASE
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OF US F5-E BECAUSE IT IS ALLEGEDLY INFERIOR TO THE SU-22 WHICH THE FAE BELIEVES IS A MACH 2.2 AIRCRAFT. ALTHOUGH WE ARE AWARE THAT THIS DIFFERENCE IN MAXIMUM SPEED IS NOT A TRUE TEST OF INTERCEPTOR CAPABILITY, THEY CONTINUE TO STRESS IT. IF IT TURNS OUT THAT THE SU-22 HAS A TOP SPEED OF MACH 1.6, OR PERHAPS EVEN A BIT LESS, THIS FACT MIGHT BE USED TO CONVINCE THE FAE TO LIMIT THEIR HORIZON TO F5-ES, RATHER THAN

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TO BUY MORE SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT.

3. SIMILARLY, OUR RATIONALE FOR DENYING THE SALE OF THE KFIR TO ECUADOR HAS BEEN CRITICIZED HERE AND ELSEWHERE ON THE GROUND THAT THE SU-22 ALREADY INTRODUCED IN THE REGION IS AT LEAST AS SOPHISTICATED AN AIRCRAFT AS THE KFIR. IF, IN FACT, THE SU-22 COMPARES MORE NEARLY TO THE F-5 IN PERFORMANCE, THEN THIS CRITIQUE LOSES CREDIBILITY.

4. WE DO NOT HAVE THE EXPERTISE TO ADEQUATELY COMPARE AIRCRAFT CAPABILITY. BUT ABOVE ANALYSIS APPEARS TO US ON THE SURFACE TO BE FAIRLY PERSUASIVE. WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE EMBASSY LIMA AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCY COMMENT ON THE ABOVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1888662
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON SU-22 CAPABILITIES
TAGS: MPOL, PINR, MASS, EC, PE
To: STATE LIMA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3704e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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